

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 30288 01 OF 02 131801Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 INRE-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
DODE-00 PA-02 ICAE-00 /070 W
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O R 131742Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7286
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 30288

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FR, EC
SUBJECT: GISCARD'S PROPOSAL FOR THREE "WISE MEN"
STUDY OF EC ENLARGEMENT PROBLEMS

FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT
AS PUBLISHED IN LE MONDE SEPTEMBER 14 OF GISCARD'S
LETTER TO EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT PROPOSING THREE "WISE
MEN" REPORT ON INSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS POSED BY EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY ENLARGEMENT. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR SIR:

TWO CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO THE ORGANIZATION
OF EUROPE INVITE US TO REFLECT. ON THE ONE HAND A
NEW SPIRIT WILL BE GIVEN TO IT BY THE ELECTION OF A
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY BY DIRECT
UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, AND BY THE INSTITUTION OF A
EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE
PREPARING OURSELVES TO CONCLUDE THE NEGOTIATION FOR
GREEK ADHESION AND WE HAVE RESERVED A FAVORABLE
WELCOME FOR THE CANDIDACIES OF PORTUGAL AND SPAIN.
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PAGE 02 PARIS 30288 01 OF 02 131801Z

WE SHOULD BE CONSCIOUS OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH
THESE DEVELOPMENTS WILL POSE FOR THE GOOD FUNCTIONING
OF THE INSTITUTIONS FORESEEN BY THE TREATIES AND FOR
THE FUNCTIONING OF THE MECHANISMS WHICH GUIDE COOPERA-
TION AMONG OUR GOVERNMENTS.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS WERE FORESEEN ORIGINALLY,
MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO, FOR SIX STATES FORMING A
RATHER HOMOGENEOUS ECONOMIC ENSEMBLE. THEY FUNCTIONED
IN A FIRST PHASE IN A SATISFACTORY MANNER. THE FIRST
ENLARGEMENT TO NINE CAUSED CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES
TO APPEAR SUCH AS THE HIGH NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE
COMMISSION AND THE HEAVINESS OF CERTAIN PROCEDURES.

IT IS CLEAR THAT IT IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO SIMPLY
TRANSPORT TO TWELVE THE ARRANGEMENTS INITIALLY FORE-
SEEN FOR SIX AND THAT A FULLER EFFORT OF ADAPTATION
IS NEEDED IF WE WANT TO MAINTAIN THE EFFICIENCY AND
THE SPIRIT OF COHESION WHICH HAS PERMITTED PROGRESS
IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE AND IF WE WISH THUS TO
CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR A REAL CONFEDERATION OF
EUROPE.

WE HAVE ALREADY HAD THE OCCASION TO EVOKE THESE
PROBLEMS DURING OUR MEETINGS OF THESE LAST YEARS.
OUR MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAVE DISCUSSED THESE
PROBLEMS MANY TIMES. THE PROXIMITY OF THE RELEVANT

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PAGE 01 PARIS 30288 02 OF 02 131757Z
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 30288

DATES TODAY REQUIRES AN OVERALL REFLECTION WHICH
WILL TAKE ACCOUNT BOTH OF THE EXPERIENCE OF THE LAST
20 YEARS AND OF THE PERSPECTIVES WHICH WE ARE FIXING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE.

TO PERMIT US TO CONDUCT THIS REFLECTION IT SEEMS
TO ME USEFUL TO DISPOSE OF THE ASSISTANCE OF INDE-
PENDENT PERSONALITIES HAVING A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS
WHILE BEING CAPABLE OF LOOKING AT THESE PROBLEMS AS
A WHOLE. THIS IS WHY I PROPOSE THAT WE CONFIDE TO
THREE "WISE MEN" THE MISSION OF EXPLORING FOR US THE
PROBLEMS POSED BY ENLARGEMENT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW
OF INSTITUTIONS, MECHANISMS AND OF PROCEDURES.

IF THIS SUGGESTION RECEIVES YOUR AGREEMENT AND
THAT OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL TO
WHICH I MAKE THIS PROPOSAL THE PRESIDENCY COULD
INVITE OUR MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO DISCUSS
IT DURING ONE OF THEIR NEXT MEETINGS SO THAT WE
CAN TAKE AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN DECEMBER A
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PAGE 02 PARIS 30288 02 OF 02 131757Z

DECISION AS TO THE DESIGNATION OF THESE THREE "WISE
MEN" AND THEIR MANDATE. END TEXT.
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